

K-12 and Special Education Funding

Funding for Students from Low-income Backgrounds

Filters:

October 2021

Funding mechanisms

- *Flat weight:* A single weight or dollar amount allocated by the state for students or districts that qualify based on certain factors or student needs. Allocations determined by flat weights do not vary based on specific program needs or student characteristics. For example, a state may provide a fixed dollar amount for each student whose family qualifies as low income to help fund additional programs to support the needs of those students.
- *Multiple student weights:* More than one weight or dollar amount is allocated by the state based on certain factors or student needs. States vary the amount allocated based on student need. For example, some states vary funding for students learning English as a second language, allocating more funds to students who are less fluent in English.
- *Census-based:* The state allocates funds to each district based on an assumed level of enrollment, regardless of the district's actual demographics. This type of funding can be used in foundation formula model funding and resource allocation model funding.
- *Resource-based allocation:* All districts receive a minimum base amount of resources. Resources could be staffing, services or programs, and are often based on a ratio of staffing to students.
- *Reimbursement system:* Districts submit receipts of eligible expenditures to the state, and the state reimburses districts for all or a portion of those expenditures.
- *High-cost services funding:* This type of funding is often coupled with other funding distribution methods, and funds can be distributed as grants or reimbursements. For example, a district may be responsible for the cost of special education services up to a certain threshold, but if costs exceed that threshold, a state may provide additional funding to the district.
- *Categorical grant:* The state distributes funds based on student characteristics or program needs to districts that demonstrate eligibility and/or a need for funding. For example, a state may provide a funding supplement for a small or isolated school district, based on that designation alone.
- *Hybrid:* The state distributes funds using two or more funding mechanisms. For example, a state may provide additional funding for students from low-income backgrounds using two funding streams, like a flat weight and a categorical grant.

50-State Comparisons on each data point are [here](#).

STATE	At-Risk Funding for Low-Income Students (Y/N)	Low-Income Students Funding Mechanism	Low-Income Students Program Name	Low-Income Students Identifier	Low-Income Students Amount (Dollar amount or weight)	Source
Alabama	Yes	Categorical grant	At-Risk Student Program	Multiple - reduced or free - National School Lunch Program and performance on statewide assessments	Provides \$19,517,734 (2021-2022) for the program.	Ala. Admin. Code 290-2-1-.05 SB 189 (Budget bill - Education Trust Fund)
Alaska	No					
Arizona	No					
Arkansas	Yes	Multiple student weights	Enhanced Student Achievement Funding	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	For districts with: Less than 70% NSL students: \$532 per NSL student 70-90% NSL: \$1063 per NSL student 90% or more NSL: \$1594 per NSL student	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-2305

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California	Yes	Multiple student weights	Local Control Funding Formula	Multiple - English proficiency, reduced or free - National School Lunch Program, and students in foster care.	<p>Additional weight of 0.2 is applied to the district's percentage of pupils who are classified as ELLs, eligible for FRPL, or foster youth.</p> <p>Additional weight of 0.65 is applied to the district's percentage of classified pupils in excess of 55 percent of total enrollment.</p>	CA EDUC § 42238.02
Colorado	Yes	Multiple student weights	District Total Program	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	<p>Additional weight of 0.12 is applied to pupils classified as "at-risk."</p> <p>For districts with a percentage of at-risk pupils that exceeds the statewide average and have at least 459 pupils enrolled, the weight is increased by 0.03 for each percentage point above the average.</p> <p>For districts with a percentage of at-risk pupils that exceeds the statewide average and have more than 50,000 pupils enrolled, the weight is increased by 0.036 for each percentage point above the average.</p> <p>No district's at-risk factor may exceed 0.3</p>	<p>Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-54-103 and § 22-54-104</p> <p>Legislative Council Research Publication No. 758</p>
Connecticut	Yes	Multiple student weights	Total Needs Students	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	<p>Additional weight of 0.3 is applied to qualifying students.</p> <p>Additional weight of 0.45 is applied to qualifying students above 60% of the student population.</p>	<p>Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-262f</p> <p>S.B. 1202</p>
Delaware	Yes (effective 2022)	Categorical grant	Opportunity Fund	Multiple - direct certification in benefit programs and English proficiency	<p>\$33.5m for school year 2022-23 (combined funding for EL and low-income students).</p> <p>At least \$5m must be used to provide additional supports to schools with more than 60% low-income students or more than 20% EL students.</p>	<p>Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1726 (effective 2022)</p> <p>DE H.B. 250</p>
District of Columbia	Yes	Flat weight	Supplement to foundation level funding	Multiple - direct certification in benefit programs, performance on statewide assessment, and students in foster care or experiencing homelessness.	Additional weight of 0.2256 is applied to each qualified student.	D.C. Code Ann. § 38-2905
Florida	No					
Georgia	No					

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Hawaii	Yes	Flat weight	Weighted Student Formula	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of 0.1 is applied to each qualified student.	Hawaii State Department of Education
Idaho	No					
Illinois	Yes	Resource-based allocation	Evidence-Based Formula	Direct certification in benefit programs	Provides additional FTE units based on the number of low-income students.	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/18-8.15
Indiana	Yes	Flat weight	Complexity Index	Direct certification in benefit programs	Additional weight is calculated by multiplying the district's percentage of direct certified students by \$3,775 and applying the resulting amount to the district's ADM.	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-43-6-3 Ind. Code Ann. § 20-43-13-4
Iowa	Yes	Hybrid - census-based and flat weight	Supplementary Weighting for At-Risk Students	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of 0.00156 is applied to all students in each district, and a flat weight of 0.0048 is applied to students eligible for free and reduced price lunch.	Iowa Code Ann. § 257.11
Kansas	Yes	Multiple student weights	At-Risk Student Weighting	Free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of 0.484 and a high-density weight that varies based on concentration.	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-5132 Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-5151
Kentucky	Yes	Flat weight	Support Education Excellence in Kentucky	Free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of 0.15	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 157.360 Kentucky Dept. of Education and School Funding Task Force
Louisiana	Yes	Flat weight	Minimum Foundation Program	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of 0.22	SCR 2 (2021 legislative session) La. Const. Ann. art. VIII, § 13
Maine	Yes	Flat weight	Essential Programs and Services	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of 0.15	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 15675

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Maryland	Yes	Hybrid - flat weight and categorical grant	The Blueprint for Maryland's Future and Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program	Multiple - reduced or free - National School Lunch Program, direct certification in benefit programs, and supplemental income form.	Flat weight - additional weight of 0.91 in fiscal year 2022. Categorical grant - funds a personnel grant equal to \$248,833 for each eligible school and a per pupil grant awarded eligible schools up to a maximum of \$3,374 per student.	Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 5-222 Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 5-223
Massachusetts	Yes	Multiple student weights	Ch. 70 Aid	Multiple - direct certification in federal benefit programs and Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Provides additional dollar amount based on percentage of students identified as low-income (2021-2022 budget). The dollar amount ranges from \$3,843 for schools with 0-5.99% of students identified as low-income up to \$5,472 for schools with more than 80% of students identified as low-income.	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 70, § 3 Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education
Michigan	Yes	Flat weight	Weighted Foundation Allowance	Multiple - reduced or free - National School Lunch Program and direct certification in benefit programs.	Additional weight of 0.115.	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 388.1631a
Minnesota	Yes	Multiple student weights	Compensatory Revenue	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Compensatory pupil units multiplied by an additional weight of 0.6. Compensatory pupil units are calculated based on both the number of free and reduced lunch students and concentration of free and reduced lunch students. Students eligible for reduced price lunch are counted as half a student and students eligible for free lunch are counted as a whole student.	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 126C.05
Mississippi	Yes	Flat weight	Mississippi Adequate Education Program	Free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of 0.05	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-151-7
Missouri	Yes	Flat weight	School Foundation Program	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of 0.25 for every free and reduced price lunch pupil count that exceeds the threshold	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 163.011
Montana	Yes	Categorical grant	At-Risk Student Component	Title I distribution	\$5,726,603 (2021-2022) \$5,873,777 (2022-2023)	Montana Office of Public Instruction School Finance Division HB 2 (Budget bill) Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-328

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Nebraska	Yes	Multiple student weights	Poverty allowance	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	The lesser of the following: (A) The maximum amount designated by the school district; or (B) Specific weights assigned to districts with the following percentages of students qualifying for the poverty allowance: 1.) .0375 for districts with 5 to 10 percent 2.) .0750 for districts with 10 to 15 percent 3.) .1125 for districts with 15 to 20 percent 4.) .1500 for districts with 20 to 25 percent 5.) .1875 for districts with 25 to 30 percent 6.) .2250 for districts with more than 30 percent	Neb.Rev.St. § 79-1007.06
Nevada	Yes	Flat weight	Pupil Centered Funding Plan	Multiple - reduced or free - National School Lunch Program or an alternative measure prescribed by the Board of Education	Additional weight of 0.03 (2021-2022 and 2022-2023)	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 387.1211 SB458 (Budget bill)
New Hampshire	Yes	Flat weight	Adequate Education Aid	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional dollar amount of \$1,854.38 (2020-2021) and \$1,893.32 (2021-2022)	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 198:40-a N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 198:40-d New Hampshire Dept. of Education
New Jersey	Yes	Multiple student weights	School Funding Reform Act	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight ranging from 0.47 to 0.57 based on the percentage of students in the district eligible for free or reduced price lunch. Additional weight of 0.1250 for students who are eligible for free or reduced price and also are bilingual/limited English proficient(combination students).	"N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:7F-46 N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:7F-51 Educational Adequacy Report 2020"
New Mexico	Yes	Flat weight	State Equalization Guarantee - At-Risk Program Units	Multiple - Title I, English proficiency, and student mobility.	Additional weight of 0.30.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-8-23.3
New York	Yes	Multiple student weights	Foundation Aid	Multiple - reduced or free - National School Lunch and U.S. Census Bureau poverty estimate	The extraordinary needs percent (based on economic disadvantage, English language learners and sparsity) ranges between an additional 1.0 and 2.0.	N.Y. Educ. Law § 3602 New York State Education Department State Aid Handbook (2021-2022)

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North Carolina	Yes	Hybrid - Resource-based allocation and categorical grant	At-Risk Student Services / Alternative School Allotment	Title I distribution	Each LEA receives a minimum of the dollar equivalent of two teachers and two instructional support personnel (including benefits). Other funds are distributed based on the number of poverty children per the Title I Low Income poverty data.	2020-2021 Allotment Policy Manual
North Dakota	Yes	Flat weight	Weighted average daily membership	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of .025	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-27-03.1
Ohio	Yes	Flat weight	Economically disadvantaged index	Multiple - reduced or free - National School Lunch Program, direct certification in benefit programs, and Title I distribution.	Additional dollar amount of \$422	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3317.022 ODE EMIS Manual: Student Attributes
Oklahoma	Yes	Flat weight	Weighted membership for calculation of Foundation Aid	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of .25	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 18-201.1 Okla. Admin. Code 210:25-3-8
Oregon	Yes	Flat weight	Distribution formulas for State School Fund to school districts	Multiple - U.S. Census Bureau poverty estimate, students residing in foster care, student placement in facilities for neglected and delinquent children.	Additional weight of .25	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 327.013
Pennsylvania	Yes	Multiple student weights	The acute poverty average daily membership; The concentrated poverty average daily membership; The poverty average daily membership	Federal poverty percentages	The state provides additional funding for students from low-income households and for districts with higher proportions of students from low-income households. Average poverty: Additional weight of .3 Acute poverty: Additional weight of .6 Concentrated poverty: Additional weight of .3	24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 25-2502.53
Rhode Island	Yes	Flat weight	Student Success Factor	Federal poverty percentages	Additional weight of .4	16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-7.2-3

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South Carolina	Yes	Flat weight	Student Weightings: Pupils in Poverty	Multiple - reduced or free - National School Lunch Program and direct certification in benefit programs	Additional weight of .20	Note: While pupil weightings are outline in statute (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-20-40), the most recent weightings used to determine funding levels are set by the state department of education's annual report. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Funding Manual S.C. Code Ann. § 11-11-156
South Dakota	No					
Tennessee	Yes	Flat weight	At-Risk Funding Allocations	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	For FY 2020-2021, the additional flat allocation for each "at-risk student" was \$940.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-3-307 Basic Education Program Blue Book FY 2021
Texas	Yes	Multiple student weights	Compensatory Education Allotment	Multiple - the state has an index for economically disadvantaged census block groups to determine the severity of economic disadvantage in the community. To establish the index, the state looks at the following for each census block: median household income, average educational attainment of the population, percentage of single-parent households, rate of homeownership, and other criteria the commissioner of education determines is likely to disadvantage a student's preparedness and ability to learn.	Provides the following weights in five tiers representing relative severity of economic disadvantage: Tier 1: Additional weight of .225 Tier 2: Additional weight of .2375 Tier 3: Additional weight of .25 Tier 4: Additional weight of .2625 Tier 5: Additional weight of 2.75	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 48.104
Utah	Yes	Flat weight	Minimum School Program - Weighted Pupil Units	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Additional weight of 0.05 for fiscal year 2021-2022 Additional weight of 0.3 for future years pending approval	Utah Code Ann. § 53F-2-314

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Vermont	Yes	Flat weight	Weighted membership	Multiple - Nutrition benefits and English proficiency	Additional weight of .25 and further multiplied by the poverty ratio of the district.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 4001 Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 4010
Virginia	Yes	Multiple student weights	Remedial Education Payments; At-Risk Add-On	Free - National School Lunch Program	<p>Remedial Education Payments: Calculated based on one hour of additional instruction daily for identified students, using a three year average percent of students eligible for the federal Free Lunch program. Fall average daily membership is multiplied by the average Free Lunch eligibility percentage to determine the estimated number of eligible students. The calculation is then applied to result in a pupil-teacher ratio, which ranges from 18:1 (for districts with the lowest percentage of eligible students combined with the three year average failure rates for English and math Standards of Learning test scores) to 10:1 (for districts with the highest percentage of student eligible for the federal Free Lunch program combined with higher than average failure rates for English and math Standards of Learning test scores).</p> <p>At-Risk Add-On: The state provides increased funding based on the concentration of students from low-income backgrounds in a given district. Districts receive a minimum addition of 1.0 percent of their per pupil basic aid cost for each identified student. The state applies a multiplier between 0.01 - 0.199 to the base amount for each identified student, with the specific multiplier applied to a district depending on the concentration of students from low-income backgrounds residing in the district.</p>	2021 VA H.B. 1800 Ch. 552

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Washington	Yes	Resource-based allocation	Learning Assistance Program	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Allocations based on the percentage of students in K-12 who are eligible for the National School Lunch Program from either the school year immediately preceding the district's participation in the program, or two years prior. Requires an amount of funding that is sufficient to provide, on average, an extra 2.3975 hours of instruction per week with a class size of fifteen learning assistance program students per teacher. Provides additional funding sufficient to cover an extra 1.1 hours per week of instruction for schools who qualify for the high poverty-based allocation, which is defined as 50 percent or more of students qualifying for the National School Lunch program.	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.150.260(10) Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.165.055
West Virginia	Yes	Flat Weight	Funding for alternative education programs	Multiple - direct certification in benefit programs, belong to low-income families, are legally under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Human Resources, in the custody of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services, or selected county's juvenile court/probation department.	Subject to appropriations, additional funding equals \$18 per student in net enrollment calculations.	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-9A-21 W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-21-1
Wisconsin	Yes	Categorical grant	State aid for high-poverty school districts	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Subject to appropriations divided by the total enrollment of eligible districts.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 121.136
Wyoming	Yes	Resource-based allocation	Resource Block Grant Model, At-risk students component	Reduced or free - National School Lunch Program	Provides sufficient funding to cover one FTE teacher and 1 FTE pupil support staff per every 100 "at-risk" students counted under the average daily membership. Provides sufficient funding to cover .15 FTE teacher for every 30 at-risk students counted under the average daily memberships for extended day and summer school.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-13-309(v)(A) (2011) House Bill 127, Attachment A WY H.B. 236 (2017)
Total answers	Yes: 45 No: 6	Flat weight: 22 Multiple weights: 13 Categorical : 4 Resource-based: 3 Hybrid: 3		Reduced or free: 19 Multiple: 16 Free lunch: 4 Direct certification: 2 Title I: 2 Federal poverty: 2		